

McLoughlin, Patrick - FPAC-BC, St. Paul, MN

From: McLoughlin, Patrick - FPAC-BC, St. Paul, MN
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:19 PM
To: 79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information Act Request: Use of "Still Interested" letters (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Ms. Best –

I have not received a response to the email letter I sent you on 9/30/2019 (copied below).

If I don't hear back from you by the end of this week, I'll go ahead and administratively close your request.

Thank you.

Patrick McLoughlin
FOIA Officer
Intergovernmental and Private Partnerships
Legislative and Stakeholder Engagement Branch
External Affairs Division
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
375 Jackson St., Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101

Office/Cell: (202) 590-6168
Patrick.mcloughlin@usda.gov

Stay Connected with USDA:



From: McLoughlin, Patrick - FPAC-BC, St. Paul, MN
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 7:52 AM
To: 79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request: Use of "Still Interested" letters (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

This request is overly broad and somewhat abstract. We would have to sift through every FOIA Request to find out if a Still Interested letter was even sent. And then figure out the outcome based on that letter. None of these actions get tracked automatically in FOIAXpress.

Secondly, regarding any policy, we follow the federal statute or OIP guidance for use of these letters. There's no separate agency policy. We give 30 days for a response after which point we close the request.

<https://www.justice.gov/oip/blog/oip-releases-new-guidance-agency-still-interested-inquiries>

You haven't provided a date range either.

Patrick McLoughlin

FOIA Officer
Intergovernmental and Private Partnerships
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Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
375 Jackson St., Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101

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Stay Connected with USDA:



From: 79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com <79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com>

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 4:02 AM

To: McLoughlin, Patrick - FPAC-BC, St. Paul, MN <patrick.mcloughlin@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request: Use of "Still Interested" letters (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
FOIA Office
Suite 600
375 Jackson Street
St Paul, MN 55101

September 30, 2019

This is a follow up to a previous request:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information Act request, copied below, and originally submitted on Aug. 26, 2019. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response.

Thanks for your help, and let me know if further clarification is needed.

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly:

https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fdepartment-of-agriculture-natural-resources-conservation-service-4883%252Fuse-of-still-interested-letters-us-department-of-agriculture-natural-resources-conservation-service-79464%252F%253Femail%253DPatrick.mcloughlin%252540usda.gov&url_auth_token=AAASCFGgqtnk71NEeoQlbtL3jp0%3A1iErZ3%3AYPkHJ6U2kToNAeJcDwXS_Jr73OU

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):
MuckRock News

DEPT MR 79464
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.

On Aug. 29, 2019:
Subject: 2019-FPAC-BC-06333-F Acknowledgement of FOIA#2019-FPAC-BC-06333-F
August 29, 2019 Delivered via email Emma Best

MuckRock News DEPT MR 54987

Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516 Dear Best: This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 26, 2019, to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC-BC). Your request was received in this office located on August 29, 2019, and assigned control number 2019-FPAC-BC-06333-F. Please use this control number for all future communications regarding this request. You requested the following: Documents mentioning or describing any use of "Still Interested" letters (i.e. letters inquiring if the requester is still interested in the records requested) in the processing and/or closure of FOIA requests, including but not limited to: * The original proposal for their use * Materials authorizing the use of any of the letters * Controlling policies or procedures * Any reports or statistics tracking their use, responses received and/or impact on any FOIA backlog * Communications with OGIS regarding "Still Interested" letters * Communications between the FOIA offices and and general counsel's/legal services office discussing or mentioning "still interested" letters * Materials describing or discussing the number of days given to requesters to respond * Materials describing the agency's policy on reopening requests when a requester responds after the period of time specified in the letter The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes. Your request was assigned FOIA Request 2019-FPAC-BC-06333-F and has been placed in the Simple multi-processing track. Please refer to this number concerning any future inquiries you may have. Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 (). <http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/amended-foia-redlined.pdf> We process requests on a first-in, first-out basis. The actual processing time will depend upon the complexity of the request and whether or not it involves sensitive or voluminous records, or extensive searches and/or consultations. We also process requests on a multi-track basis. This means that simple requests, requiring minimal effort to respond, are processed in one track, and more voluminous and complex requests are processed in another track. We have placed your request in the Simple track. We will be in contact with you as soon as possible regarding the Cost Estimate for this request, if applicable.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact me at (202) 590-6168 or electronically at Patrick.mcloughlin@usda.gov. You can also contact Philip Buchan, FOIA Public Liaison, for any further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request at (301) 504-1701 or nrcs.foia@nrcs.usda.gov I appreciate the opportunity to assist you in this matter. Sincerely, Patrick McLoughlin
FOIA Officer

On Aug. 26, 2019:
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: Use of "Still Interested" letters (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service)

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Documents mentioning or describing any use of "Still Interested" letters (i.e. letters inquiring if the requester is still interested in the records requested) in the processing and/or closure of FOIA requests, including but not limited to:

- * The original proposal for their use
- * Materials authorizing the use of any of the letters
- * Controlling policies or procedures
- * Any reports or statistics tracking their use, responses received and/or impact on any FOIA backlog
- * Communications with OGIS regarding "Still Interested" letters
- * Communications between the FOIA offices and and general counsel's/legal services office discussing or mentioning "still interested" letters
- * Materials describing or discussing the number of days given to requesters to respond
- * Materials describing the agency's policy on reopening requests when a requester responds after the period of time specified in the letter

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Emma Best

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 79464-73878970@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly:

https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fdepartment-of-agriculture-natural-resources-conservation-service-4883%252Fuse-of-still-interested-letters-us-department-of-agriculture-natural-resources-conservation-service-79464%252F%253Femail%253DPatrick.mcloughlin%252540usda.gov&url_auth_token=AAASCFGgqtnk71NEeoQlbtL3jp0%3A1iErZ3%3AYPkHJ6U2kToNAeJcDwXS_Jr73OU

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